



What's Happening at Bluffton Presbyterian Church

September 2019

Growing in Faith • Sharing God's Love

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 1

3 Cents a Meal Offering

Special Music: Dave & Jane Sycks, trumpet duet

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

Liturgist: Diana Winebar

Greeters: Don and Cathy Carroll

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, September 8

Communion / Food Pantry Offering

Choir

Sound: Bob Hursh / Slides: Diane Winebar

Liturgist: Helen Hawk

Greeters: Dwight and Jeanie Nichols

Acolytes: Brauens

Sunday, September 15

Special Music: Don Brauen & Pastor Karol

Sound: Mike Rhonemus / Slides: Talaviniias

Liturgist: Jay McCracken

Greeters: Gene and Sue Mathewson

Acolytes: McVettas

Sunday, September 22

Choir

Sound: Jeff Gillen / Slides: Cathy Carroll

Liturgist: Sarah Brauen

Greeters: Szabo Family

Acolyte: Avery Talavinia

Sunday, September 29

Special Music: Don Brauen

Sound: Clair Winebar / Slides: Julia Szabo

Liturgist: Lynda Best

Greeters: Kevin and Jana McVetta

Acolyte: Brauens

Sunday, October 6

Communion / 3 Cents a Meal Offering

Sound: Jay McCracken / Slides: Julia Szabo

Mark Your Calendars!

- Sept. 4 – Community Pre-School Opens
- Sept. 5 – Bluffton University Church Fair – 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
- Sept. 5 – Community Meal at Senior Center – 6:00 PM
- Sept. 8 – Faith Formation (Sunday School) for all ages begins – 9:00 AM
- Sept. 12 – Session – 7:30 PM
- Sept. 15 – Sunday Snacks – Coffee and Juice only will be served at 10:00 AM
- Sept. 15 – Facebook Workshop – 10:00 AM
- Sept. 15 – Reception for Revs. Karol and Chris Schilling – Following Worship – Church Fellowship Hall
- Sept. 17 – Presbytery Meeting 3:00 PM – FPC Findlay
- Sept. 18 – Deacons – 7:30 PM
- Sept. 22 – Community Picnic on Church Lawn – 4:30 to 6:30 PM
- **Sept. 22 – Newsletter Items Deadline**
CEGillen@MarathonPetroleum.com
- Sept. 29 – Bluffton Presbyterian Church 170-year Anniversary – Reception Following Worship
- Oct. 5 – Blessing of the Animals – 10:00 AM
- Oct. 6 – World Communion Sunday

Announcement Procedure

If you have an announcement to be shared in worship or in the bulletin, please get it in to the church office by Thursday morning.

Choir

The church choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary and sings twice a month in worship. New members are always welcome!



Pastor's Letter

Our recent wedding on August 10 feels like a blur—not because it was so long ago, but because the days and hours leading up to the ceremony and reception seemed to happen so fast! I will share a few details of the day here not only for those of you who are interested, but also for myself, as a reminder of some of the amazing moments of that special day.

The officiant and scripture reader were the pastors of my home congregation of Paris Presbyterian Church, which was also the location of the ceremony. (We tried to count how many clergy were present for the occasion – close to 20!) My uncle played the organ, and the vocalists were 2 of my seminary classmates who are also now colleagues in this Presbytery.

The scriptures we chose for the ceremony were:

Song of Songs 2:10-14; 8:6-7

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away. O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned.

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse

them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Chris and I shared vows that we had each written, exchanged rings, and performed a sand ceremony pouring two different colors into a single vase.

Following the ceremony and pictures, our guests joined us in crossing the state line to Saint Mary of the Woods, Indiana for dinner and dancing. After seeing off some out-of-town family and friends, we headed to the airport early Monday to spend a week in Jamaica! This became our honeymoon destination after we were surprised to win a bridal show drawing for 3 free nights at an all-inclusive resort. The location was beautiful, and the setting was exactly what we needed after all the wedding preparations were completed.

My roles in wedding ceremonies now include guest book attendant, bridesmaid, pianist, officiant, and bride: talk about seeing things from every angle! What a blessing it is to be part of one another's lives on such meaningful occasions. Thank you all for your prayers as we begin our new married life together, the Reverends Karol and Christopher Schilling.



In Christ,

Pastor Karol

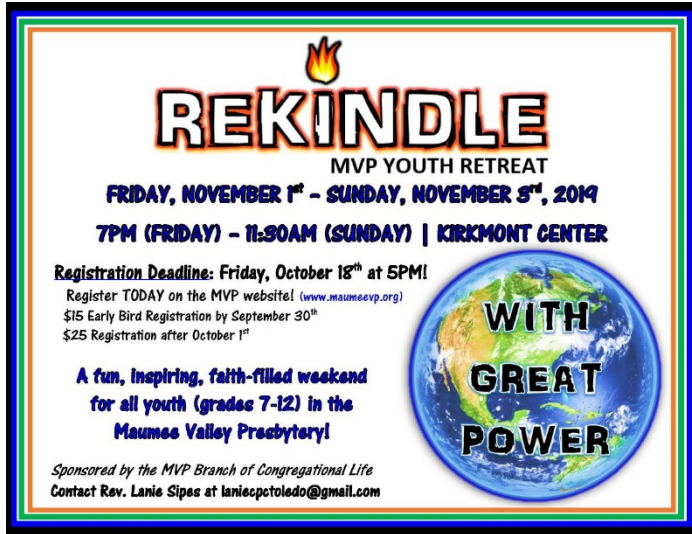


Pastor Karol's Office Hours

Monday: 1-4

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday: 9-12
and by appointment

My usual sabbath time is Friday/Saturday. I am of course available for emergencies, funerals, and special events on those days, but I typically don't engage in other work responsibilities. Outside of sabbath time, I am available by phone (419-581-9232) during the day even when not scheduled in the office. ~ Pastor Karol



REKINDLE: Presbytery Youth Retreat

The Fall Youth Retreat comes to Maumee Valley Presbytery again! This year's theme is "With Great Power." Dates are November 1-3 at Kirkmont for all 7th-12th graders. Register by Friday October 18.

Anniversary Dates Requested

Attention all married couples: please submit your wedding anniversary information to the church office by the end of September so that we can celebrate with you on your special day! A form will also be placed in the back of the sanctuary where you can write your information.

Bluffton University Church Fair

BU Campus Ministries will hold its annual Church Fair on Thursday, September 5 from 11:00 – 1:00 in the Marbeck Center. This is an opportunity for us to connect with students who might be looking for a church to attend. Please contact Pastor Karol by Tuesday September 3 if you are interested in preparing items in advance or attending the fair.



A PLACE OF HOPE FOR
CHILDREN, TEENS AND ADULTS

Fall Festival of Hope 2019

Friday, October 4th 5:30-9:00PM

Black Bird Farm

20875 Rd 14, Columbus Grove, OH
45830

5:30-7 PM: Enjoy appetizers, hot beverages, live entertainment, potato gun shooting, caricatures, multiple gift basket raffle & other unique surprises!

7-9 PM: Enjoy a delicious sit down meal and live entertainment; celebrate with Cornerstone of Hope!

Your sponsorship will help make a difference with all proceeds from the evening going toward our services to children, teens and families. With your support, we hope to equip over 7,000 children, teens and families in our community with practical life skills and the message of hope over the next year!

\$30 Per Person (\$20 tax-deductible) Ages 13+ please.

\$50 Per Couple (\$30 tax-deductible)

Register at cornerstoneofhopelima.org or click on the link below!

[Click To Register](http://cornerstoneofhopelima.org)

For questions about the event or sponsorship opportunities, contact us at 419-581-9138 or email Micah@cornerstoneofhope.org



Word in the World

This fall, you are invited to weekly Word in the World discussions with Pastor Karol. Join us any Wednesday beginning September 4 from 9-10 at the Twisted Whisk Café. We enjoy connecting God's word to today's world!



Welcome New Members Melodye and Lauren!

Welcome to our newest church members: Melodye Massey and Lauren Massey! They were received into membership by the session on July 31 by Letter of Transfer from United Presbyterian Church of Montague County (Bowie, Texas). This hard-working mother-daughter duo moved to Ohio two years ago from Bowie; they have family connections in the Cincinnati area. Melodye is employed at USDA; Lauren, at First Federal Bank. In their spare time, Melodye volunteers with animal rescue groups and Lauren is into photography. They look forward to being part of the church family and getting involved in the community. Their address is 112 Charloe Circle, Ottawa, OH 45875. Please welcome them if you haven't yet connected with them. We are excited for their commitment to join us as we Grow in Faith and Share God's Love!

170th Anniversary of our Church

On September 29, we would like to celebrate the 170th anniversary of our church with refreshments and special memories about our church. Please send your memories and past pastors, list as many as you remember! Any pictures you have we'd love to see and can be returned to you. Betsey Angus or Jodi Brauen

Sermon Videos Available Online

Did you know that if you miss worship, you can still hear the message that was shared? Most sermons from recent months can be viewed on our website: www.blufftonpc.org/sermons.



Blessing of the Animals

Spread the word and join us on the church lawn Saturday, October 5 for a Blessing of the Animals! Members of the congregation and local community along with their pets are invited to gather around 10:00 AM, and a brief service of blessing will begin at 10:30 AM, concluding by 11:00 AM. Cats, dogs, and others welcome – all animals must be leashed or crated. A pet picture may be brought if preferred. Contact Pastor Karol with any questions regarding the event.

BPC Greeter Instructions

Thank you to everyone who serves as a greeter! Here are a few things to remember for your assigned Sunday.

Before the Service:

1. Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to worship.
2. Station one greeter at entry to downstairs and one in front of sound tech.
3. If you see someone come in through handicap entrance, take them a bulletin.
4. Welcome people and hand out bulletins.
5. Make sure to talk to guests. Welcome them and ask their name.
6. If first Sunday of month, remind people to pick up their newsletter.

After the Service:

1. Go back to your greeting stations and make sure you thank any guests for joining us, offer them a visitor packet (located on back cabinet behind sound tech), and welcome them to come back soon.



July 2019 Financial Report

Thank you for financially supporting the church's budget.

Deacons

Presbyterians Today magazine was ordered, so those of you who ordered will start receiving them again soon.

Bluffton Community Meal

Bluffton Presbyterian Church will again serve as host for the area Community Meal on Thursday, September 5, at the Senior Citizens Center. The deacons will prepare and serve the meal, but your help is always needed and appreciated! For those who are interested in assisting, sign-up sheets are in the back of the sanctuary.

How can YOU participate in this all-church effort?

1. **BAKE A PIE** – at least TEN are needed to feed the estimated 80 guests.
2. **ADD YOUR NAME** to the list of cheerful workers. People are needed to help serve the meal, act as "runners," clean up, and share in fellowship with those present.
3. **DONATE FUNDS** to help cover the cost of food and all necessary supplies. You may donate by check. (Please write 9/5/19 Community Meal on the memo line.)

THANK YOU for your support of this worthwhile Bluffton ministry!

Mission Committee

Please remember to bring food for the food pantry the second Sunday in August. The items needed this month are **cereal and toothpaste**. This is not to say that we don't welcome other items, but these are the items they need the most at this time.

People Are Using the Little Free Pantry!

The LFP's mission is to help people with immediate food needs. Church members (and even people from the community) keep the LFP stocked. We are grateful for your support! It truly is making a difference in the lives of those who use it.

When donating items to the LFP, please remember: **no glass jars or bottles**, which can break if dropped. If you'd like to help families, **consider donating boxed items**: Tuna Helper, mac-n-cheese, pasta, cereal, and granola bars. Also, canned pasta sauce, canned tuna, beef, or chicken, oatmeal, rice, noodles, dried fruit, etc. School supplies would be great!

Personal care items are also appreciated: soap, shampoo, deodorant, baby care items, toilet paper, tissues, toothpaste, and toothbrushes, etc.

For safety's sake, please check the expiration dates of the items you donate. Your contributions can be placed inside the LFP or taken to the church office.

Thank you for your help as we work together as neighbors helping neighbors!

"Our Daily Bread" Mobile Meals

Mennonite Memorial Home and Hilty Home both offer a mobile meals program known as "Our Daily Bread." Through this program, a hot noon meal is delivered Monday through Friday within a 5-mile radius of Bluffton and Pandora. Cost is just \$5/meal. Call 419-358-1015, Ext. 218 for more information.



Mission Co-Worker Update

Presbyterian World Mission

P. O. Box 643700

Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

Read more online:

pcusa.org/ian-and-jhan-vellenga

Thank you for supporting Ian Vellenga and Jhan Dortel-Velenga's ministry in Nicaragua. Your prayers and financial support make a difference to the lives of people in Nicaragua.

On a recent trip, we were able to visit a community up in the mountains a couple of hours from the Honduran border. The people there lack many of the comforts we often take for granted, like running and drinkable water, interior plumbing, electricity, and even enough beds for all members of the family. Some of the communities are set deep in the mountains, and constant rains made them even more difficult to reach. We often had to jump out of the trucks and walk through muddy, rocky, and almost nonexistent rural roads to reach some of the places we wanted to see. But in every school, church, and house we stopped at, people received us with a contagious and genuine happiness and an excitement that was almost impossible to resist.

As we sat together under a tin roof listening to the rain fall or the creek flowing behind the house, life did not feel so different, but it is. The worst part is that we often believe that because people are "happy" lacking many of the things that we consider "indispensable" in our lives, they do not want more. We believe they might be content with their "simple" ways of living. But in many senses, that is far from the truth. People wish for more and better: better living conditions for their children, themselves, and their community; better water systems, which means better health and hygiene; better roads for easier travel and access to other communities and cities. More schools mean better education and job opportunities; electricity means not only more security, but also connectivity, easier access to information, and less isolation in terms of their country and the world at large. "More" and "better" in this sense mean an improved quality of living and enhanced expectations for the future.

As partners of many of these communities through CEPAD, and as brothers and sisters in Christ, we can help to ease many of their needs by becoming instruments of God's promise on earth. We might not be able to build aqueducts and roads, but we can provide scholarships for poor families to send their children to school. We can help to provide water filters and to build wells where there is not potable water available. We can help provide training to teach people how to grow more food, making it easier for them to have a healthier and balanced diet. There are many ways in which we can help to alleviate and lighten their harsh and dry seasons.

You can also support CEPAD's work by starting a partnership with a rural community, donating to CEPAD's programs and by supporting us and our work in Nicaragua.

We are grateful for all of you and wish you seasons of good harvest and showers of blessings, always.

Jhan and Ian



Community Picnic

Bluffton Presbyterian Church is hosting the community picnic on September 22 from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. We could use a few volunteers to help set up at 4:00 PM, serve food at 4:30 PM, and help tear down at 6:30 PM. See flyer at end of newsletter.

Facebook Workshop

For those of you who use Facebook:

Do you like and follow our church Facebook page? Do you know how to check in, share posts, make comments, and RSVP for events? If you would like to learn more about interacting with our page, you are invited to attend a brief pre-worship "workshop" on Sunday, September 15 at 10:00 AM. Coffee and juice will be served. You are encouraged to bring your smartphones to follow along!

Highlights of August Session Meeting

- Approved receiving Melodye Massey and Lauren Massey as members by Letter of Transfer from United Presbyterian Church of Montague County (Bowie, Texas). Electronic approval given to village to make improvements to church yard on alley side where ground was disturbed by tree removal and alley construction - church's cost \$200 with pledged gift of \$50 making final expense \$150. Approved Cathy Carroll to use church basement on Saturday August 24 in the morning for a baby shower. Approved Tom/Marilyn Edwards to borrow tables/chairs in June for neighborhood picnic.
- June Pastoral Care: 3 home/hospital/nursing home visits, 2 conversations, and 14 cards sent. July Pastoral Care: 5 home/hospital/nursing home visits, 10 conversations, and 18 cards sent. Home Communion: 2 served with Deacon Craig Bowman. Congregational Activities: Word in the World, Activated Faith meetings (twice), Claralice Circle, Faith Formation lunch, and church committee meetings. Presbytery Activities: New Pastors' Group, Commissioned Ruling Elder meeting, and participated in Commissioning Service for Commissioned Ruling Elder Rose Jones at Clyde. Community Engagement: Chamber Breakfast, Festival of Wheels Dinner, Relay for Hope, Weekday Christian Ed Board meeting, and three nights at Community VBS.
- Community Vacation Bible School completed – averaged 90 children. Mission money they collected (\$350) will be given to Bluffton Library.
- Local mission money used to help family in need. Members from church family will be volunteering at “National Night Out” on August 6 and \$150 from local mission money donated for this cause. Church family donated crayons, glue, and tissues for Community Assistance school supplies program. Participating in “Pack the Pews” in August – donating items for local food pantry.

- Work along the alley has been completed and area has been mulched. Bushes at church will be trimmed.
- Wheels Festival net profit was \$864. Festival proceeds go to general fund. A \$1,340 donation was received for the electronic yard sign fund during June, bringing the sign fund balance up to \$6,083. Through June, Pentecost offering receipts stood at \$160. Through June, Relay for Hope offerings made to the church totaled \$75. Approved to remove Darlene Hey as signatory on checking account at Citizen's National Bank – per her request. Laura/Tyler From are in process of purchasing a newer handicapped van. Money donated to church for this purpose – Transportation Fund (\$3,647.26) will be used towards \$5,000 down payment. Line item will remain for future donations for this purpose.
- Approved changing September's communion date from September 1 to September 8.



September	4	Jeremy Szabo
	5	Jay McCracken
	10	Bexley Leugers
	11	Craig Bowman
	13	Julianna Hotmire
	14	Sue Dorsey
	23	Rhonda Moore
	24	Jayne McGarrity
	26	Sue Mathewson
		Amanda Layer
	29	Cindy Gillen
	30	Wyatt Marshall
		Andrea Best
		Rob McGarrity
October	5	

New Address

Mariah Pneuman
208 N. Cable Rd.
Lima, OH 45805
567-289-9172



Prayers for Chris and Karol as their new life together begins.

Prayers of Sympathy for Jeff, Cindy and Sarah Gillen on the loss of Cindy's Aunt, Thelma Garner.

Prayers for students, teachers, and school staff as a new school year begins.

Prayers for our members and friends serving in the armed forces: especially Kyle Begg, Andrew Warner, and Lucas Woodward.

Prayers of Healing for Laura & Tyler From, Mark From, Bob McVetta, Wally Herald, Jeremy Szabo, Scott Benroth, Mark Blunk, Addison McGarrity, Lisa Hughes, John Warren, Jodi Best, Walter Schmidt, Patrick Rhonemus, Marilyn Edwards, Molly McCracken, Donnas Stone and Jim Mulland.

We Lift Our Prayers



Put a prayer request in – take a prayer request out. Look for prayer request slips in the pews and near the prayer box. Or use your own paper. Requests can be as simple as “I’m having back pain,” or “My son is looking for a job.” The slips can be placed in the box or in the offering plates. Prayer requests can be submitted anonymously. Allow someone in your church family to support you in private prayer.

Praying for You Cards

The Deacons have started a program with “Praying for You” cards available in the pews for you to write notes to others. Ideas for who to write to include: homebound members, those on our prayer list, and our Church Person of the Week. Upon receipt of a card in the offering plate, the Deacons will mail it during the following week to the recipient you have indicated. Let’s send some kindness to those who could use our prayers!

BPC Prayer Chain

If you have a prayer request, please contact Jeanette Warren (419-722-3793). PLEASE leave a message if no answer. If you can’t reach Jeanette, please call Helen Hawk (419-516-3125). PLEASE leave a message, if no answer. Or call the church office (419-358-5806) with your prayer request, and we will pass along the information. If you would like to add someone to the prayer chain other than yourself, please be sure to get their permission first. Names and circumstances can be kept confidential, if desired. God knows for whom we pray. If you would like to be part of the chain or would like more information, please contact Jeanette or another deacon.



Dear Pastor Karol and all,

Thank you for your note, pictures from Lew’s installation, and the beautiful plant!

Your prayers, notes, and cards are all so heart felt. Thank you! They help put this last year of accelerated health decline in greater perspective. I am grateful for that as it helps my/our healing.

Lew loved serving Bluffton church and we shared memories and stories these past few years. He loved the people connection? Such gratitude for those special times?

His transition was very peaceful here at home with hospice and family to “love” him on his way. Such a blessing. Lew is with us all now as we all move forward with a grateful heart!

Val Vandernaald

Bluffton Presbyterian Church – 3-cents a meal –

Thanks so much for your donation to the Bluffton Community Assistance Corporation. We really appreciate your ongoing support!

You Don't Have to Be a Bible Expert!

Most often heard reasons for not wanting to join a small group:

- I won't be able to participate in a Bible study discussion because I don't know the Bible well enough.
- I don't want to read in front of a group.
- I can't even turn to the right book in the Bible!

Roy Pneuman led many training sessions for small group leaders at BPC and he always emphasized that a person should come to a small group Bible discussion **AS IF HE/SHE WERE OPENING THE BIBLE FOR THE FIRST TIME! NO PREVIOUS BIBLE KNOWLEDGE NECESSARY!**

We often use the African or Lambeth Bible Study Method in small groups to help us understand what the Bible is saying to us, using questions such as: Where does this passage touch my own life experience at this time? From what I've heard and shared, what do I believe God wants me to do or be? Is God inviting me to change in any way?

There is no pressure to read in front of everybody in small group. There are plenty of people who enjoy doing the readings. Also, most Bibles have an index page and plenty of time is allowed in small group to sort through books, chapters, and verses. Everybody has trouble finding the right place--those thin Bible pages can certainly stick to each other!

In addition to exploring the Bible, the small groups enjoy fellowship and laughter. It's a great opportunity to stay current with church friends and to support each other. We'd love for you to join us. Speak to Pastor Karol or a leader: Beth Buist, Jayne McGarrity, Jeanette Warren, and Diane Winebar.

CLARALICE CIRCLE: Every Tuesday 6:30 to 8:00 PM in the church basement starting September 10.

SISTER MIN CIRCLE: 2nd and 4th Fridays 2:00 to 3:00 PM in the Family Room at Maple Crest starting September 13.



Fall Faith Formation Activities

Join us on Sunday, September 8 at 9:00 AM for the start of the Fall Faith Formation activities. The adult class will be meeting in the first classroom of the education wing. This group uses video series and other resources to stimulate lively and thought provoking discussions that encourage the growth of a deeper and broader faith. The children and youth will be meeting in the basement. This group will be growing their faith through a variety of activities including Bible reading, discussions, acting, games, and other hands on activities. We look forward to seeing you!

Volunteers Needed

The Faith Formation Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with leading the children and youth sessions on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM. You will be given a detailed curriculum to assist with leading the session. Whether you are available to assist as part of a rotating schedule or as a substitute when needed, your help is appreciated.

We are also looking for someone to lead the youth group this year. You and the youth can structure your meetings, schedules, and activities to meet your mutual desires and needs.

If you are interested serving as a volunteer, please see Tenna Rhonemus.

Reminder

If you have Community Market receipts, please bring them in and place them in the baskets on the bulletin board or the back of the hallway. Thank you to Kay Ziessler for coordinating our congregation's participation in this rewards program.

Wills

Few of us find it pleasant to contemplate our own demise. Yet as responsible stewards of the gifts God has entrusted to our care in this life, we should realize that the time will come when someone has to decide what happens to the assets we have accumulated over our lifetimes.

We all want to provide for our children and grandchildren, or perhaps other family members or friends. Most of us want to leave something more substantial than pleasant memories for the generations that follow us. One of the best gifts we can give to our survivors is a will, a plan detailing how we wish our affairs to be concluded. Survivors have enough to worry about: dealing with their grief, making or fulfilling the final arrangements. It is a loving act to provide survivors with a plan that we have carefully considered that removes from them responsibility for making decisions about the distribution of our accumulated goods. We strongly encourage anyone who does not have an estate plan to make an appointment with an attorney to create a will. That act can alleviate your own anxiety as well as that of surviving children and other heirs at a relatively modest cost.

In my professional career as a church administrator, I served two large churches, each of which had or now have endowments or other invested funds in excess of a million dollars, funds that were accumulated over years from gifts and bequests from members. Those investments provide annual revenue that is used to support specialized ministries as well as support for annual operating expenses. Small churches such as ours seldom receive gifts and bequests in such quantities. Nevertheless, an accumulation of similar gifts can make the difference between a small church surviving and its demise. Just as in our annual giving, small churches depend on each individual offering their support to the best of their ability, our church will thrive or decline, at least in part, on members' planning for the distribution of our accumulated assets following our deaths.

Recognizing the significance of end-of-life gifts and bequests, I have made provision in my own estate plan for a portion of my estate to be paid to Bluffton Presbyterian Church. I assure you, my

bequest will in no way be sufficient to assure the congregation's future. It is my hope and that of your stewardship committee, however, that our members will similarly remember the church as they make or update their own estate plans.

Submitted by George Stultz



American Muslims and Their Contributions to America

A lecture with Professor Saeed Khan
Sunday September 8, 3:30-5:30 PM
Gateway Middle School Auditorium
900 Gibbs St., Maumee

Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of
Maumee

and The United Muslim Association of Toledo
FREE ADMISSION

At a time in our country when there is so much divisiveness, we serve ourselves well to learn what is common among us, to celebrate what is unique and valuable about our different faiths and cultures, and to rediscover what unites us as Americans.

The Muslim-Christian Dialogue Group, based at First Pres Maumee but led by lay leaders from both the church and the mosques which comprise The United Muslim Association of Toledo, have been working toward this purpose since 2014.

Dr. Khan's lecture should be viewed as an opportunity to learn, from an internationally known expert, what special value immigrants (especially Muslims) have brought to the United States in the last 70+ years. It is also an opportunity to foster harmony, mutual appreciation, and love among our fellow citizens and neighbors who may be different than we are. Come help us demonstrate that America is one of the few places on Earth where diversity can be and should be seen as a virtue. For more information, call: First Presbyterian Maumee (419) 893-0223.

SMART STEPS – 7 Week Group
Support, Practical Education, and Hope for
Families in Transition Due to Divorce and/or
Remarriage.

When: Wednesdays, Beginning September 18
***Group closes after 2nd week**
Time: 6:30-8:00 PM
Cost: \$75/per family unit attending
Location: Cornerstone of Hope
2963 Blue Jacket Court, Lima 45806

*Open to any parents who are co-parenting or part
of a step-family*

**Parents can attend individually or with spouse*

Group members will:

- Implement meaningful personal and parental responsibility
- Process realistic expectations in current family dynamic
- Learn positive communication/relationship skills between parents and children
- Recognize and improve effective parenting styles, implement healthy boundaries and navigate discipline and consequences

Understand what children need from parents

MANAGING ANXIETY & DEPRESSION
6 Week Women's Group

When: Tuesdays, starting September 24
Time: 6:00-8:00P M
Cost: \$130 due at the beginning of the group
Location: Cornerstone of Hope
2963 Blue Jacket Ct. Lima 45806

Anxiety and depression often hold many women captive. God has provided practical skills to help us avoid the painful bondage of these emotions and thoughts. This group will process through discussion, experience and practical application how to:

- Recognize triggers and minimize escalated emotions
- Apply healthy calming techniques and coping strategies

- Keep thoughts from ruling emotion and action
- Be aware of hindrances to the peace God offers, how to rediscover it, and live in it

Manage traps that lead to anxiety and depression such as performance/perfection, fear, negative thoughts, sense of unworthiness, busyness, pride and past

Building Up Kids: Battling Big Emotions

6 Week Group
Bluffton Location

When: Mondays, September 30
Location: Ebenezer Mennonite Church
8905 Columbus Grove-Bluffton Rd.
Bluffton 45817
Time: 4:00-5:15 PM
Cost: \$100
Ages: Kindergarten through 4th

An exciting, unique experience of creativity mixed with learning for kids! LEGOs provide a natural vehicle for creativity. Blending this creativity with various physical, social and emotional learning activities provides a great atmosphere for kids to learn while they create!

Through the use of LEGOs and other hands-on fun, attendees will learn:

- How their brains are wired
- Self-Regulation and calming strategies
- Healthy expression of emotion through colors and building
- How to choose healthy reactions to process life situations

Practical techniques to cope with emotional situations

Cornerstone of Hope Lima

For questions contact us at 419-581-9138 or email
Micah at:

Micah.moore@cornerstoneofhope.org

[Click Here To Register](#)

**Reception for Karol Farris and Chris Schilling
Sunday, September 15, after Worship**

Mark your calendars! We'll all gather to congratulate Pastor Karol and Chris, who were married August 10. The party will be held in the fellowship hall and is being organized by the Claralice Circle small group.

You are invited to contribute toward a Love Gift for the newlyweds, which will be presented at the reception. Please make checks payable to Bluffton Presbyterian Church, and write Love Gift on the memo line. Mail to the church, place in the offering plate, or bring to the church office. Cash gifts, in an envelope marked Love Gift, may be brought to the church office or placed in the offering plate.



Please join us for a

Community



Sunday, Sept. 22, 4:30-6:30PM

At Bluffton Presbyterian Church

(corner of Main & Cherry Streets)

FREE

Shredded Chicken Sandwiches &
Hotdogs, Cookies, Snacks, Drinks,
Music & Games

To learn more, visit www.facebook.com/blufftonpc

Bluffton Presbyterian Church
112 N. Main St., P.O. Box 149
Bluffton, OH 45817
419-358-5806
blufftonpc.org

Sunday Worship: 10:15 AM

Pastor: Rev. Karol Farris Schilling

Phone: 419-581-9232

Email: pastor@blufftonpc.org

Office Hours:

Mon 1-4; Tues, Wed, Thurs 9-12;
and by appointment

Secretary: Cathy Carroll

Email: bpcbluff@wcoil.com

Office Hours: Tues & Thurs 8:30-12:30

Treasurer: Darin Leugers

Email: dleugers8319@yahoo.com

Organists: Jayne McGarrity and Sue Van Eman

Choir Director: Linda Sycks

Nursery Helpers: Kori Phipps and
Shawna Anderson

Custodian: Tony Carmack

2019 Church Officers

Session

Clerk of Session – Lori Schmidt

Buildings & Grounds – Tom Hursey

Faith Formation – Tenna Rhonemus

Finance & Stewardship – Clair Winebar

Mission – Lynda Best

New Beginnings – Sarah Brauen

Nominating – Sarah Brauen and Cindy Gillen

Personnel – Betsey Angus

Presbytery Commissioner – Lori Schmidt

Worship – Cindy Gillen

Members at Large – Jodi Brauen, Sarah Brauen,
and Tom Edwards

Board of Deacons

Moderator: Helen Hawk

Members: Tanya Best, Craig Bowman, Marilyn
Edwards, Dave Van Eman, and Jeanette Warren